

# TIMELINEZ

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THE JOINT NEWSLETTER OF THE THREE TIMEX-SINCLAIR  
USER GROUPS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
\*\* EBZUG PUG SVSTUG \*\*

## QL: OUR FIRST LOOK

by Norm Lehfeldt

Only five months after it was ordered, the QL has finally arrived!

This is a preliminary report based on a relatively brief exposure to the machine and its accompanying software, so any conclusions reached must be regarded as tentative.

The QL keyboard operates smoothly and positively, although it produces more noise as each key bottoms than does the T/S 2068.

But for those accustomed to earlier Sinclair and Sinclair-derived machines, there is more to get used to than a new keyboard.

The single-stroke entry of BASIC commands is gone. Instead one must type in each command as on most other computers. The process is simplified by a large number of permissible abbreviations and the fact that the computer makes no distinction between upper and lower case letters in SuperBASIC commands—for example entering "rem" causes the QL to return the token "REMark" in a program line. There is still no full-screen editor. Much as on earlier machines, program lines are entered and edited in a work space at the bottom of the screen.

My impression may change as I become more accustomed to the system but at present the whole arrangement seems more cumbersome than the older one. If one enters "LIST" as a command without specifying line numbers, the whole program scrolls rapidly by unless one has the presence of mind to press "BREAK" (control and space) when the portion of the program one wishes to inspect goes by. It takes a cool head and a quick trigger finger.

As for SuperBASIC itself—it is obviously a very powerful structured language. DEFINED PROCedures are intended to replace GOTO's and GOSUB's, for example. These can be called by their names which are stored in a table. Thus program execution speed is relatively independent of program size. Months will be required to fully explore the capabilities of this sophisticated new language.

When the QL powers up it offers a choice of TV or Monitor modes. The Monitor mode offers the full high-resolution, 85-column display (after entering this mode one may choose the lower-resolution display if desired), while the TV mode generates a shrunken display area in high or low resolution to accommodate the over scan and resolution

capabilities of TV receivers. As you no doubt have heard, many standard monitors will not display the full 85 columns because the QL presents a horizontal video line somewhat longer than standard. My Taxan monitor displays 82 or 83 columns after adjustment of the picture width (adjustment of picture height was also required). It is possible to get satisfactory results by selecting the TV mode when using a monitor. The QL generates 50-cycle, non-interlaced video in the monitor mode. Some monitors may not be able to sync to it. Others will produce noticeable flicker in large, light-colored areas of the display.

On the 8-pin DIN connector there are; RGB color, PAL composite, monochrome composite, vertical sync, and composite sync outputs. No NTSC color composite output is provided. An RCA connector provides channel 3 or 4 NTSC color output. Sound reproduction is only through the QL's internal speaker.

So far, the only other interfacing I have tried is connecting my Star printer to the Serial 1 port through a Serial-to-Centronics converter (\$49.95 from Curry Computer). As you can see, it works.

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## EBZUG NEWS

by Rick Link

I missed September's meeting. We're in the ninth inning of contract negotiations on the job in Vallejo and made front page news (good news I hope) - so I have been busy. There is always some way to make time for computers though, which I did.

First, of interest to Timex users. The Bay Area has the possibility of profitting from 2068s in the classroom. David Gray from Antioch has been extending his computer education (on TS1000 and 2068) to possible commercial program writing. I've seen two of his programs ...a game and a graphic utility. The game is interesting; smooth graphics and arcade-style sound combine to make a new maze/chase game. The graphic utility, "Dot To Dot", a combination of BASIC and machine code, gives the user many options when drawing on the 2068. You use your joystick to plot endpoints which connect when you "click" the joystick button. You can scroll the screen in any direction, create circles, fill hollow spaces and draw freehand. Contact me if you are interested in David's programs. I'll let him know.

Woody had another new computer from DAK - a Spectravideo MSX machine with 40 programs for \$169. Of course, I like my 2068 better, but if you're looking for an inexpensive entry level microsoft basic machine, you could do worse. A lot of the forty programs were very "basic", but can always be helpful in learning how to use the machine. Supposedly you can expand the machine to include a printer interface, diskdrive, modem, etc. The printer interface is available at the same time of purchase while the other

items would have to come from Europe or Japan from other MSX machines. If you're interested in buying one, talk to Woody; he has returned his but can share his experience with it.

Woody presided over the last meeting and wanted me to welcome new members:

Sid Melucci  
Dale Alhstrom  
Kirk Adams  
Courtney DuBois  
Myles Cohen (of New York)

Woody reports that there is still a lot of interest in the TS1000 and appropriate hardware, assembly language and FORTH. If any of these items interest you, come to the next EBZUG meeting where you will find others with similar interests.

## PUG NEWS

by George Mockridge

We had a pleasant surprise at our September meeting...Norm Lehfeldt showed us his new Sinclair QL. This long-awaited event provided hope that there is a possible future for Sinclair computers in the U.S. Norm had only received his QL a few days before our gathering and was still learning the ropes; he has promised an interesting demonstration for our October meeting.

Speaking of meetings, it was decided to schedule a December PUG meeting this year. In the past, we skipped the December meeting because of the proximity to Christmas, but this year the meeting date will arrive on the 15th. That leaves the next weekend open for last minute shopping.

While on the subject of Christmas (isn't it amazing how one subject leads to another?), please remember the Word Puzzle program I presented in the August 1984 TIMELINEZ. This program is great for preparing a small personalized gift to send to a friend or relative who would only get a card otherwise. I will give some examples at the meeting. (A tape copy of the Word Puzzle program is in the Software Library.)

Now that we are on the subject of the Software Library, I would like to call your attention to several recent TS 1000/1500 program donations. Barbara Stolle has adapted the 2068 Tape Label program from the July issue of TIMELINEZ so that 1000/1500 users can get their tape collections in order. (See article in this issue.)

David Docker has sent us two interesting tapes. The first is a nifty little program which keeps track of dates and the second is based on the OLD SHELL GAME or "Hey kid, bet you can't find the pea!". (An article on this is presented elsewhere in this issue.) Since I retired from my TS 1000 some time ago, I have not been able to try these out, but I am sure that they will work OK.

Finally, the mention of work reminds me that the TIMELINEZ staff plans to take a rest during November. Please make a note of the November 17 meeting date because you will not receive a newsletter to remind you.

SEE YOU SOON.

\*\*\*\*\*  
NOTICE!!!  
\*\*\*\*\*  
This issue is for the months of October and November. The December issue will be out in the first part of that month.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## SVSTUG NEWS by Bill Miller

(Editor's Note: Bill's column on Silicon Valley activities will resume in the next issue.)

### TS1000 Equipment For Sale

TS1000 Computer	\$ 20.00
TS1016 16K Ram Pack	10.00
TS2020 Cassette Recorder	25.00
TS2040 Printer and Paper	40.00
A&J Microdrive and Wafers	100.00
Gladstone 64K Ram Pack	40.00
Memotech Centronics Interface and Cable	50.00
ZX Profile and Profile Updates	20.00

Plus many books and program cassettes.  
All items are in like new condition.

Call Glenn Zaretska (415) 889-9203 or  
(415) 582-2669

## PROGRAM WIPEOUT

```
10> REM *** PROGRAM WIPEOUT ***
20 POKE 23613,2: POKE 23614,91
30 POKE 23298,0: POKE 23299,0
40 REM *****
100 REM ** BEGINNING OF PROGRAM
110 FOR N=1 TO 22
120 PRINT "DO NOT TRY TO BREAK
THIS PROGRAM"
130 NEXT N
140 PAUSE 50: CLS : PAUSE 50
150 GO TO 110
```

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\* THIS SENTENCE CONTAINS EXACTLY \*  
\* TROMBONE SEVEN WORDS. \*  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## HOW TO PUNCH OUT YOUR BANKER OR THEY LAUGHED WHEN I SAT DOWN TO PAY

by Terry Meade

"HomeBanking, the newest electronic service from Bank of America, lets you control your banking like never before. You can pay routine bills and transfer funds between accounts, all in a matter of minutes with your computer. And you can do it all from 6 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week for just \$8 a month plus your regular checking account charges." So says one of Bank of America's latest HomeBanking brochures.

Using any of the Sinclair or Timex family of computers plus a modem and a nearby telephone, you can get to your HomeBanker even after regular business hours, and in a flash. It sure beats standing in lines at a bank counter!

You can dial up your HomeBanker on a local TYMNET number, and then using software that comes with the ByteBack or Westridge modems you can display the status of your accounts as of the previous business day. You can move funds between savings or checking accounts, or check your Visa account to see if there's enough credit left to take the lady or gentleman of your life out to dinner.

And you can pay your various bills on any particular business day of your choosing. Bank of America has hundreds of accounts that you can access for bill paying service. The list includes such stalwarts as Sears, Macys, GMAC, MaBell, AAA, the gas and electric company, plus anybody else that you or the bank can talk into joining the system. You can even make the premium payments on the insurance policies that you took out to pay for Junior and Missy's college education.

The BankAmerica program also includes two-way message service between you and the HomeBank computer so that you can ask questions about your account(s). This bulletin board provides banking announcements, discusses new service being added, and provides guidance on how to solve simple connection problems between your terminal and the data bank. There is even talk about including electronic shopping with local merchants and the possibility that stock broker service might soon be available. And, to top it all off, all this data will print out on your TS 2040 or any other properly interfaced printer.

So, if you want convenient access to your accounts and an end to standing in lines at bank counters, or if you just hanker to pay your bills at 10 o'clock at night from the comfort of your hot tub, you might want to consider joining the HomeBank crowd who are regularly punching out their banker. Then you too can laugh as you set down to pay.

There's only one problem. To get it on with your HomeBanker you will still have to go stand in line at your nearest Bank of America counter...in order to get an application.



This program is based on the OLD SHELL GAME or "Hey kid, bet you can't find the Pea!!!" The game starts the player off with \$100.00 You can bet any part of your bank roll. After the introductory screen (Title), you are advanced into the game. The screen shows you your current holdings and asks you to enter your bet. The three numbered cups are shuffled around. You are then asked to enter your guess. Enter 1,2, or 3. You are told, Right or Wrong, and shown where the pea really was. Your new balance will be shown and after a short pause the screen will reset for your next attempt. The play continues until you lose all your money. When you have lost all your money, the screen will change and give you a recap of your activities. You will be told the total number of attempts, the number of correct responses, and the percentage of times you were correct of all attempts. Beware... This game is catching!!!

FROM: DAVID B. DOCKER  
M.D.U.G. (MOJAVE DESERT USERS GROUP)  
P.O. BOX: 87  
EDWARDS, CA. 93523

```

70  LET I=3
80  UNTIL I=0
90  PRINT I=100
100 PRINT AT 5,3;" THE FAMOUS 3
110 GOTO 1
120 PRINT AT 8,0;"YOU START WIT
130 PRINT AT 10,0;"THE HOUSE PA
140 PRINT AT 10,0;"YOU MAY BET
150 PRINT AT 10,4;" PRESS PL.
160 GOTO 1
170 PAUSE 454
180 GOTO 1
190 PRINT C=0+1
200 PRINT AT 10,5;"
210 PRINT AT 11,7;"(1) AT 11,21)
220 PRINT AT 12,7;"(1) AT 12,21)
230 PRINT AT 13,7;"(1) AT 13,21)
240 PRINT AT 14,7;"(1) AT 14,21)
250 PRINT AT 15,6;"
260 PRINT AT 15,20;"
270 PRINT AT 9,6;"
280 PRINT AT 6,7;"(1)" AT 6,13)
290 PRINT AT 6,19;"(3)"
300 GOTO 1
310 PRINT BETTING 60 TIME
320 PRINT AT 17,0;"YOUR HOLDING
330 PRINT AT 19,0;"ENTER YOUR B
340 PRINT AT 19,0;"YOUR SET IS
350 FOR J=1 TO 10
360 NEXT J
370 FOR I=1 TO 10
380 PRINT AT 9,6;"
390 PRINT AT 9,6;"
400 PRINT AT 9,6;"
410 PRINT AT 9,6;"
420 PRINT AT 9,6;"
430 PRINT AT 9,6;"
440 PRINT AT 9,6;"
450 PRINT AT 9,6;"
460 NEXT I
470 PRINT RANDOMISM
480 RAND
490 LET N=INT (RAND*3)+1
500 PRINT AT 2,0;" HERE IS THE
510 INPUT D

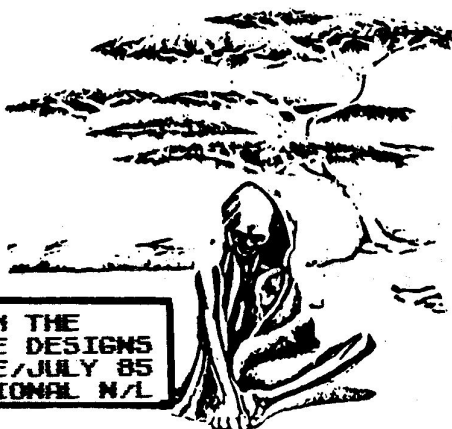
```

```

000000 RUN THEN GOTO 2000
000000 IF NOT CORRECT ANSWER ROUTINE
000070 PRINT AT 3,0;" YOU ARE CORRECT"
000075 IF N=1 THEN PRINT AT 7,6;" "
000080 IF N=2 THEN PRINT AT 7,12;" "
000090 IF N=3 THEN PRINT AT 7,18;" "
000095 IF N=10 THEN PRINT AT 7,18;" "
000100 PRINT ON BALANCE CORRECTION
000105 PRINT =B+(C*2)
000110 PRINT AT 17,0;" "
0030 PRINT AT 17,0;"YOUR BALANCE"
0035 IF B
0040 IF C=0
004000 IF C=499
004005 IF C=499
004010 IF NOT WRONG ANSWER ROUTINE
004015 PRINT AT 3,0;" YOU ARE WRONG"
005000 IF N=1 THEN PRINT AT 7,6;" "
005010 IF N=2 THEN PRINT AT 7,12;" "
005020 IF N=3 THEN PRINT AT 7,18;" "
005030 IF N=10 THEN PRINT AT 7,18;" "
005040 IF N=10
005050 IF N=10
005060 PRINT AT 17,0;" "
0070 PRINT AT 17,0;"YOUR BALANCE"
0075 IF B
007710 FOR V=1 TO 30
007720 NEXT V
007730 IF V=1 TO 30
007740 IF V=1 TO 30
007750 IF V=1 TO 30
007760 IF V=1 TO 30
007770 IF V=1 TO 30
007780 IF V=1 TO 30
007790 IF V=1 TO 30
007800 IF V=1 TO 30
007810 IF V=1 TO 30
007820 IF V=1 TO 30
007830 IF V=1 TO 30
007840 IF V=1 TO 30
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007860 IF V=1 TO 30
007870 IF V=1 TO 30
007880 IF V=1 TO 30
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007960 IF V=1 TO 30
007970 IF V=1 TO 30
007980 IF V=1 TO 30
007990 IF V=1 TO 30
008000 IF V=1 TO 30
008010 IF V=1 TO 30
008020 IF V=1 TO 30
008030 IF V=1 TO 30
008040 IF V=1 TO 30
008050 IF V=1 TO 30
008060 IF V=1 TO 30
008070 IF V=1 TO 30
008080 IF V=1 TO 30
008090 IF V=1 TO 30
008100 IF V=1 TO 30
008110 IF V=1 TO 30
008120 IF V=1 TO 30
008130 IF V=1 TO 30
008140 IF V=1 TO 30
008150 IF V=1 TO 30
008160 IF V=1 TO 30
008170 IF V=1 TO 30
008180 IF V=1 TO 30
008190 IF V=1 TO 30
008200 IF V=1 TO 30
008210 IF V=1 TO 30
008220 IF V=1 TO 30
008230 IF V=1 TO 30
008240 IF V=1 TO 30
008250 IF V=1 TO 30
008260 IF V=1 TO 30
008270 IF V=1 TO 30
008280 IF V=1 TO 30
008290 IF V=1 TO 30
008300 IF V=1 TO 30
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008370 IF V=1 TO 30
008380 IF V=1 TO 30
008390 IF V=1 TO 30
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008670 IF V=1 TO 30
008680 IF V=1 TO 30
008690 IF V=1 TO 30
008700 IF V=1 TO 30
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008990 IF V=1 TO 30
009000 IF V=1 TO 30
009010 IF V=1 TO 30
009020 IF V=1 TO 30
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009060 IF V=1 TO 30
009070 IF V=1 TO 30
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009100 IF V=1 TO 30
009110 IF V=1 TO 30
009120 IF V=1 TO 30
009130 IF V=1 TO 30
009140 IF V=1 TO 30
009150 IF V=1 TO 30
009160 IF V=1 TO 30
009170 IF V=1 TO 30
009180 IF V=1 TO 30
009190 IF V=1 TO 30
009200 IF V=1 TO 30
009210 IF V=1 TO 30
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009270 IF V=1 TO 30
009280 IF V=1 TO 30
009290 IF V=1 TO 30
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009330 IF V=1 TO 30
009340 IF V=1 TO 30
009350 IF V=1 TO 30
009360 IF V=1 TO 30
009370 IF V=1 TO 30
009380 IF V=1 TO 30
009390 IF V=1 TO 30
009400 IF V=1 TO 30
00
```

# SOFT AID

Feed The World



FROM THE  
TIME DESIGNS  
JUNE/JULY 85  
NATIONAL N/L

There is a cassette tape available featuring ten top hit game programs from England, for the Spectrum computer. All proceeds from the sale of the software go to the BAND-AID TRUST FUND to aid starving Ethiopians. The Band-Aid project was first implemented when British Pop Music Stars recorded and donated a Christmas song for the effort. The "greatest hits" tape is called SOFT AID, and contains the following games: Spellbound (Beyond), Starbike (The Edge), Kokotoni Wilf (Elite), The Pyramid (Fantasy), Horace Goes Ski-ing (Melbourne House/Psion), Gilligan's Gold (Ocean), Ant Attack (Quicksilva), 3D Tank Duel (Real-Time), Sorcery (Virgin), and Jack and the Beanstalk (Thor). On the "flip" side of the tape is the recorded version of the song "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

Rod Cousens of Quicksilva organised the software relief project, and hopes that it will raise some £200,000 for the Ethiopians. Here in the U.S. the SOFT AID Spectrum tape is available from Susan Ziegler, Software Services, 14307 BenBrush, San Antonio, TX 78248, for a mere \$6.25 plus \$2.00 for first class p & h. Bob Dyl of the English Micro Connection, 15 kilburn Ct., Newport, RI 02840 will also have substantial supplies of SOFT AID shortly. The British software producers have been very generous in their efforts. The tape is very reasonably priced, and everyone should obtain their own copy...pirated versions won't help dying people one bit. Note: There is also a version for the Commodore 64.

## FROM THE SEPT. '85 CATS N/L

### SCROLLING

Do you get tired of the incredibly slow and jerky SCROLL command on the TS1000? Take heart true programmers. The following machine code program will not only permit you to SCROLL up. It will also permit SCROLL down, SCROLL left, and SCROLL right.

After you type in the program SAVE it. Then RUN the program. The program is then stored safely above RAMTOP so that you can use it with any program. To use the SCROLLs use this line in your program:

```
LET Z=USR X
where X=32521 for SCROLL up
        32542 for SCROLL down
        32566 for SCROLL right
        32586 for SCROLL left
```

```
1 REM 12345678901234567890123
45678901234567890123456789012345
67890123456789012345678901234567
89012345678901
2 LET A$="21097F220440EB01550
0219240EDB0C9ED5B0C4013212100190
1F502EDB006202B7110FCC92A0C4011F
602424519EB21210019EBED830520237
110FCC90176172A0C401600237EB9280
4725718F710F3C90176192A104016002
B7EB92804725718F710F3C9"
3 FAST
4 LET A=16514
5 FOR B=1 TO LEN A$-1 STEP 2
6 POKE A,16*CODE A$(B)+CODE A
$(B+1)-476
7 LET A=A+1
8 NEXT B
9 RAND USR 16514
10 NEW
```

BRIAN LITTLE

## FROM THE TORONTO SINC-LINK N/L

### Tassman Interface Update Art Johnson

After having problems with my Tassman interface, I called E.A. Brown. He told me Ramex, the Tassman distributor, recently had all the interfaces that they imported and distributed in North America modified by Tassman to run the Ramex disk drive. They are not compatible with anyone else's system. If you are ordering a Tassman interface you must specify a type 'B', if not you will be sent a type 'C' which is only compatible with a Ramex Disk System.

## QL COMMENTARY

by Norm Lehfeldt

The much-anticipated Sinclair QL has finally lurched onto the American market (See preliminary review in this issue).

It is disturbing to see that, with such a spectacular machine on its hands, Sinclair U.S.A. shows signs of shooting itself in the foot (or even feet).

The highly publicized organizational and financial uncertainties of the parent company are surely to blame for Sinclair's inability to deliver American QL's in a timely fashion. But those difficulties do not excuse the contemptuous fashion in which Sinclair U.S.A. treats would-be customers and dealer-supporters.

Some examples:

Those who ordered QL's from American Express in May received their machines after those who ordered from Sinclair in June and July. It seems likely that Sinclair was chaffing at the discount it was giving American Express (both companies were retailing the machine at the same price) and was trying to provoke American Express customers into cancelling their orders and re-ordering from Sinclair.

Sinclair refuses to discount to dealers anything in their small catalogue. The only chance of success in America remaining to Sinclair is to get their products into as wide

distribution as possible, as quickly and cheaply as possible. It is sheer stupidity not to take advantage of the help being offered.

When one calls the Sinclair order or customer service numbers one gets a bored-sounding woman who does not seem to know quite where she is (Customer Service answered "Customer Service" without mentioning Sinclair. I had to ask to be sure who I was talking to on a transcontinental call.), what she is doing, or how to do it. Placing a small order recently, I was repeatedly put on hold while the order-taker apparently asked someone else what to do next.

It is time Sinclair realized that it is us--Users Groups, Dealers and Importers, Software Authors, Peripheral Manufacturers--who have kept interest in Sinclair technology alive through the long arid spell between the collapse of Timex and the introduction of the QL. Everyone sitting there on their tails in Nashua, New Hampshire owes their job to us!

Speaking as a member of the family, Sinclair U.S.A.'s present surly, aloof attitude simply will not do. We are not, after all, living in the days when people were falling all over themselves to buy ZX81's!

Perhaps Sir Clive should send Nigel Searle a copy of "In Search of Excellence."

**A whole new world awaits you  
at the end of the**

## Rainbow!!

**RAINBOW plus INTERFACE** combines improved Spectrum ROM emulation PLUS a Spectrum compatible expansion connector ALL-IN-ONE compact case! No need to open the computer—frees the cartridge dock—allows switching between modes without removing. Run thousands of Spectrum programs PLUS Spectrum hardware. ONLY \$49.95 + \$2.00 S&H.

### **SPECTRUM HARDWARE FOR USE WITH THE NEW RAINBOW plus:**

**\*DAMCO/ROTRONICS WAFADRIVE**—Fast reliable 128K dual drive storage system. Includes Centronics and RS232 ports plus a FREE word processor and blank wafer. ONLY \$154.95 + \$5.00 S&H.

**\*GAMES PLAYER JOYSTICK INTERFACE** by d'ktronics. Kempston compatible features "freeze" and slow motion control. ONLY \$19.95 + \$2.50 S&H.

### **\*HIGH RES LIGHT PEN** by d'ktronics.

Produce high resolution illustrations with the 16 pre-defined instructions. Complete with software. ONLY \$29.95 + 2.50 S&H.

### **\*SPEECH SYNTHESIZER AND AMPLIFIER**

by d'ktronics. Includes text to speech converter. Everything you wish to be spoken is entered in normal English. Supplied with a high quality 4" speaker. ONLY \$34.95 + \$2.50 S&H.

### **\*THREE CHANNEL SOUND SYNTHESIZER**

by d'ktronics. Allows you to program your own music with harmonies, explosions, zaps, chimes, whistles etc. With software and a high quality 4" speaker. ONLY \$39.95 + \$2.50 S&H.

\*Spectrum compatible interface required for Timex 2068.

**TO ORDER** send check, money order, VISA, or MASTERCARD. Please include postage as shown. No more than \$5.00 postage required per order.

**DAMCO ENTERPRISES**  
67 BRADLEY CT., FALL RIVER, MASS.  
02720  
or call (617) 678-2110.

## 1500 TAPE LABELS

adapted from James G. DuPuy  
by Barbara Stolle

Here is an adapted version of the 2068 program that creates labels with an index for your cassette tapes. Type it in as listed, or LOAD the cassette copy that I have donated to the tape library (LOAD "TAPE LABEL"). We T/S 1000/1500 users will not be out-done!

YOUR TAPE TITLE	
SIDE:A	SIDE:B
PROGRAM 1 >10 ECT >50	PROGRAM 5 >10

YOUR TAPE TITLE	

```

1 FAST
2 FOR N=0 TO 21
3 PRINT "
4 NEXT N
5 SLOW
6 FOR N=0 TO 10
7 PRINT AT 9,6;"** STOP THE T
APE **"
8 PRINT AT 11,6;"**TURN ON PR
INTER**"
9 PRINT AT 9,6;"-- STOP THE T
APE --"
10 PRINT AT 11,6;"--TURN ON PR
INTER--"
11 NEXT N
12 PRINT AT 2,9;"TAPE LABELER"
13 PRINT AT 5,3;"THIS IS A PRG
RAM THAT";AT 6,3;"WILL CREATE A
LABEL FOR"
14 PRINT AT 7,3;"YOUR CASSETTE
S. MAKE";AT 8,3;"SURE THAT YOU
PROGRAM"
15 PRINT AT 9,3;"TITLES ARE NO
OVER 30";AT 10,3;"CHARACTERS L
ONG"
16 PRINT AT 11,5;"
"
17 PRINT AT 12,5;"TO SKIP TO S
IDE B";AT 13,5;"OR TO STOP SIDE
B"
18 PRINT AT 14,5;"JUST PRESS E
NTER";AT 15,5;"THE PROGRAM TO
END"

```

```

19 PRINT AT 16,5;"PROMPTS";AT
18,3;"WHEN READ TO START";AT 1
9,3;"PRESS ENTER"
25 INPUT Z$
30 CLS
35 PRINT AT 1,0;"
"
36 PRINT AT 2,0;" ";TAB 31;" "
40 PRINT AT 3,0;"
"
41 PRINT AT 20,0;"
"
50 FOR N=4 TO 19
60 PRINT AT N,0;" "
61 PRINT AT N,15;" "
62 PRINT AT N,31;" "
70 NEXT N
80 PRINT AT 4,4;"SIDE:A"
81 PRINT AT 4,20;"SIDE:B"
120 PRINT AT 21,2;"ENTER TAPE T
ITLE OR NUMBER"
130 INPUT A$
131 IF A$="" THEN GOTO 130
135 PRINT AT 2,2;A$
140 LET O=1
150 FOR M=6 TO 19
155 PRINT AT 21,0;"
"
160 PRINT AT 21,0;"ENTER TITLE
FOR SIDE A ITEM ";O
170 INPUT B$
171 IF B$="" THEN GOTO 210
178 PRINT AT M,1;B$
180 PRINT AT 21,0;"ENTER INDEX
NUMBER FOR ITEM ";O
185 INPUT I$
190 PRINT AT M,11;">";I$
195 LET O=O+1
200 NEXT M
201 GOTO 150
210 LET O=1
215 FOR M=6 TO 19
220 PRINT AT 21,0;"
"
230 PRINT AT 21,0;"ENTER TITLE
FOR SIDE B ITEM ";O
240 INPUT B$
241 IF B$="" THEN GOTO 297
245 PRINT AT M,16;B$
250 PRINT AT 21,0;"ENTER INDEX
NUMBER FOR ITEM ";O
260 INPUT I$
270 PRINT AT M,26;">";I$
280 LET O=O+1
290 NEXT M
291 GOTO 215
297 PRINT AT 21,0;"
"
300 COPY
305 CLS
310 PRINT "
";AT 2,0;"
"
316 PRINT AT 1,0;" ";AT 1,31;" "
318 PRINT AT 21,2;"ENTER TAPE T
ITLE OR NUMBER"
319 INPUT A$
320 IF A$="" THEN GOTO 319
321 PRINT AT 1,2;A$
322 PRINT AT 21,0;"
"
323 COPY
335 PRINT AT 14,0;"FOR ANOTHER
RUN PRESS ENTER"
340 INPUT X$
345 IF X$="" THEN GOTO 30
350 STOP
355 SAVE "TAPE LABEL"
360 RUN

```

## COMPUTER CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

- 20 Peninsula User Group 1:00
- 24 East Bay User Group 7:30
- 29 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00  
Meeting, Cupertino Library
- 30 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00  
Workshop, Great Western Savings  
Cupertino

### NOVEMBER

- 17 Peninsula User Group 1:00
- 21 East Bay User Group 7:30  
(One week earlier due to  
Thanksgiving)
- 26 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00  
Meeting, Cupertino Library
- 27 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00  
Workshop, Great Western Savings  
Cupertino

### DECEMBER

- 15 Peninsula User Group 1:00
- 19 East Bay User Group 7:30  
(One week earlier due to  
Christmas)
- 26 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00  
Workshop, Great Western Savings  
Cupertino
- 31 Silicon Valley User Group 7:00  
Regular Meeting  
Cupertino Library

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RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA 94805  
(415) 234-3310

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PRESIDENT: GEORGE NOCKRIDGE

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(408) 253-3175

PRESIDENT: RITA CARR, (408) 738-2888, X-4579

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(CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE)

Based on very limited experience, here are some thoughts on the four Psion programs supplied with the QL:

QL Database is as much a new language as a new program. Its facilities seem quite extensive. Rob Curry is using it for his customer database and reports that it really needs disc-drive support when large data storage is contemplated. This seems to be true of all the Psion programs.

QL Spreadsheet provides a massive utility of over 16,000 cells! It has all the expected functions and seems very fast.

QL Business Graphics is almost as easy to use as the Sinclair hype suggests. It takes any data you give it and organizes and re-organizes it into various types and sizes of bar, line and circle graphs. It allows lots of experimenting without re-inputting data and can provide monochrome or color print-outs depending on the printer connected. (All four Psion programs operate in the QL's high-resolution mode which allows only four colors on the screen.)

QL Word Processing is the program I have used most (this article is written with it) and it is the most disappointing.

The program's text manipulation, command structure and help facilities are what you'd expect. But its printer control facilities are crude and its RAM text space practically non-existent.

As it loads up it is configured to provide bold and underlined text on the screen and to transmit codes for these modes to Epson-compatible printers. Through a cumbersome process it is possible to modify the printer drivers (several are provided) or create a new driver that will invoke other printer features. But there is no way to embed such codes directly in your text, nor to alter the screen prompts to reflect any changed codes. It is possible to put several versions of the printer driver, each supporting different printer modes, on the cartridge, but rotating among them in a practical setting is messy and time-consuming.

QL Word Processing will support only about 3 pages of text in RAM (in the 128K QL) before calling for microdrive storage! There seems to be some extremely inefficient coding at work here. How a capable software house like Psion could have created such a limited program for a machine as powerful as the QL is a perplexing question. Perhaps someone else will be able to do better.

Speed in computer mass storage has become as automobile horsepower was in the '50's and '60's--everyone wants more whether they need it or not. There is no question that a sequential storage medium such as the Sinclair microdrives can not be as fast as disc storage--and in applications where one wishes to conduct searches on a data base larger than the 100K a single microdrive cartridge supports, the disc is clearly more practical.

But for the kind of computing most of us do at home (and in small offices) I can't find anything to complain about in the microdrives. Their small size and their integration into the QL's case make them elegant in my view. The unreliability commented on in the English press seems to have been a problem in early samples, although the cartridges themselves do seem more delicate than, say, the A & J wafers. But in the first week of use I have had no difficulties with the Sinclair drives. Users with longer experience than I are reporting similar experience.

Support for the QL is beginning to pick up steam. Curry Computer publishes an extensive hardware and software catalogue and ships promptly. Rob Curry tests memory expansions, interfaces, etc. and gives honest advice as to what works and what doesn't. English Micro Connection is including some QL items in its catalogue and Zebra Systems has announced similar intentions.

The success of all of this enterprise depends on QL sales in the U.S. So far no one seems to have seen an American QL with a serial number above about 2000.

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